



# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

IN THIS NUMBER

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THE SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS  
SPRING AT RANCHO SANTA FE  
VOCATIONAL OUT OF DOOR TRAINING

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MARCH, 1928

TEN CENTS

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# The California Garden

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No. 9

## The San Jacinto Mountains; A State Park For Southern California

During the past few years the necessity for more adequate parks and publicly owned recreational playgrounds has become increasingly apparent. Only a few years ago highway travelers could pull off to the side of the highway or out into the foothills or mountain roads and camp anywhere without fear of criticism. Owing to increased travel by reason of paved highways and better roads with the resultant increased fire hazards, it has been found necessary to place very drastic regulations, and the owners of private properties have found it necessary to fence and otherwise restrict camping or trespassing on their lands. Even the few parks that have been set aside are at times crowded to full capacity and many beautiful scenic localities throughout the state are but seldom or little visited, largely on account of the fact that publicly owned recreational grounds have not been made available.

The Honorable Governor C. C. Young is an ardent supporter of the state park movement and he has but recently appointed a group of five men on a State Park Commission whose duty will be to make a comprehensive survey of the state as a basis for the development of a well balanced park system. This Board will also administer all state parks and have full charge of any and all funds set aside by the state for the purpose of purchasing or maintaining California state parks. The Board consists of Mr. Wm. E. Colby of Berkeley; Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur of Palo Alto; Mr. Henry W. O'Melveny of Los Angeles; Major Frederick Russell Burham of Los Angeles and Ex-Senator W. F. Chandler of Fresno.

At the present time there are five state parks in the State of California, located as follows: California Redwood Park, Santa Cruz County, 9,380 acres Bidwell State Park, Butte County, 100 acres; Burney Falls Park, Shasta County, 335 acres; Mount Diablo State Park, Contra Costa County, 639 acres; Humboldt State Park, Humboldt County, 1,560 acres in the original purchase to which has been added 1,526 acres by gifts and cash donations and 83 acres secured from the U. S. Department. These parks are all located in the more northern part of the state.

In Governor Young's letter naming the members of the Commission, Mr. Young stated "California is growing very rapidly and its sites of natural beauty suitable for parks and public recreation are becoming scarcer and more valuable year by year. For instance our beaches along the coast which could have been easily acquired a few years ago are now in private hands and in a large measure shut off from the public. The same will soon be true of our redwood forests if prompt action is not taken toward their preservation.

A considerable number of nature lovers both in this state and the east have evinced a desire to lend financial aid toward preserving beauty spots of California. Already redwood parks have been purchased for the state in this way and intimation has been given that a great deal more may be expected along this line provided the state will co-operate. The last State Legislature provided for submission to the voters, a park bond issue of \$6,000,000.00, the bonds to be issued only as each dollar of state money is matched by another dollar from these outside sources."

Nature lovers of Riverside County have at many times in the past pointed out the beauties of the San Jacinto Mountains, particularly that portion of the mountains lying above 6,000 feet altitude and including San Jacinto and Tahquitz Peaks and the valleys lying in between. There are many thousands of acres of land lying in these mountains still under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Forest Service. There are a few sections of railroad lands and some privately owned lands. Here is found an abundance of native vegetation, forests of pines, cedars and oaks, and everywhere wild flowers for which California is so famous. The Los Angeles Express, in commenting on the proposal for a state park in the San Jacinto Mountains, has this to say "Those who know Mount San Jacinto and the surrounding country will join enthusiastically with citizens of Riverside and recommend that charmed district to the newly created State Park Board for consideration as the site for a state park. In all Southern California is nothing grander or lovelier.

(Continued on page 15)

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### LIFE HISTORY OF THE APHIDS

BY LUCINA H. LOMBARD, (Me.)

The Aphids are among the most interesting of the bugs, belonging to the order Hemiptera (half-wing) insects. Insects are a successful group. They outnumber all the other species on the face of the earth. Fitted in many ways to lead the successful life, they have become winners in life's race.

The number of species of Aphids is very large, and almost every plant furnishes a living to a different kind. They are produced in large numbers and attack plants, sucking their juices from stem and leaf, and sometimes destroying whole crops, (as Peas) besides being a pest to Roses, Honeysuckles, Goldenglow, etc.

These plant lice have a remarkable life history. Early in the year, eggs develop into the wingless females, which produce living young, all females. These in turn reproduce in a similar manner, until the plant on which they live becomes overcrowded and the food supply runs short. Then a generation of winged Aphids is produced. These fly away to other plants, and reproduction goes on as before, until the approach of cold weather, when males and females appear. Fertilized

eggs are then produced which give rise to young the following season.

The Aphids exude from the surface of the body a sweet fluid called Honeydew. This is given off in such abundance that it is estimated if an Aphid were the size of a cow, it would give 2000 quarts a day. This Honeydew is greatly esteemed by insects, especially the Ants. For the purpose of obtaining it, some Ants care for the Aphids, providing, in the underground galleries of their nests, elaborate stables for the Aphids, (commonly called Ant's Cows,) supplying with food and shelter and taking the Honeydew as their reward. Stimulated by a stroking movement of the antenna of the Ant, the Aphid allows the Ant to lick the Honeydew from its body.

A Western form of Ant, found in New Mexico and Arizona, rears a scale insect on the roots of the Cactus for this same purpose. This form of partnership or relation of mutual help is known as symbiosis. It is a narrower symbiotic relation than that which exists between the flowering plants and the insects. A recent orchardist's manual advises the destruction of Ants' nests by salt so as to destroy the Aphids.

Aphids have many foes, such as the larvae of the Ladybird (Ladybug), the policemen of the insect world, which are really Beetles. They are often seen on kitchen windows in the country in June, coming in from orchards, fields and gardens, where they are always busy clearing plants and trees of insect pests. For, friendly as they are to men, Ladybugs are like hungry Tigers among other insects, especially scale insects.

When attacked, Ladybugs defend themselves by ejecting drops of an acrid and ill-smelling liquid from their knee-joints. Hence they are distasteful to other insect eaters and Birds; in fact, they are preyed on by almost no other creatures. The eggs are laid under the leaves of plants infested with insect pests, and the surviving adult finds a safe corner and hibernates through the Winter.

As soon as the larvae (long and worm-like with horny heads and three pairs of legs,) hatch, they start out greedily "mopping up" their enemies until the plant is clean. When full grown, the larvae hang by their tails from a leaf and so pass through the pupa stage to adult Beetles, thus completing the three changes which they undergo.

There are many species of Ladybugs and several have been imported from various countries to combat the scale insects which are such a pest to orchardists.

Our pretty little native Ladybug which is so common is red with two black spots. Its scientific name is *Vedalia bipunctata*.



Hop-growers in New York and in England depend upon tobacco as the principal remedy for Aphids. The British Ladybirds are temperamental. They won't come home to roost in nice little winter quarters, provided for them by the Ministry of Agriculture, so they may get busy on the Green Fly early in the Spring.

The Ministry collected many thousands of the Ladybirds last year and put them in cork homes at the Rothamstead Experimental Station, Harpenden. A good proportion survived the Winter, but as they cannot be taught to fly home and farmers cannot be expected to gather them by hand and put them there, the experiment is pronounced a failure.

Today (October 12th,) I passed through a grove of young gray Birches, with their yellowing fall foliage. My dress caught many green Aphids; but the trees were alive with Myrtle Warblers and they caught more!

Bush Sparrows, Woodpeckers, Cedar Waxwings, and Chestnut-sided Warblers also eat the Aphids.

The Ants which spread them are the favorite food of the Catbird, Thrasher, House Wren and Woodpecker, and are eaten by almost all land Birds except Birds-of-prey.

We who love the Birds are legion and all we do to protect them helps to lessen these insect pests.—The Flower Garden.

### BRIDAL VEIL GENISTA

From December until March this Genista is in full bloom and is one of our choice, very fragrant and decorative flowering shrubs. Its long grey foliage is in contrast with its pure white or slightly purple spotted, small pea-like flowers on long thread like sprays. It serves well as a cut flower, and is excellent with other flowers in a vase or basket arrangement.

Its very drooping and willowy growth necessitates a good stake and frequent tying otherwise the plant becomes so very crooked in its growth that it is almost disagreeable. It can be effectively trained up the post of a pergola and fall in graceful sprays over the top, and is quite as desirable as a vine. It is well named Genista monosperma, bearing a pod with one seed.

Mr. David Fairchild on his travels in North Africa in 1925 along the Mediterranean coast saw this shrub used as a sand binder on the dunes near Mogador, Morocco. With this information we can expect it to be a successful seashore plant, and its value at Mission Beach can be well tested; also at La Jolla Shores and other localities where the soil is mostly sand.

—K. O. SESSIONS.

### CURE IS FOUND FOR DIABETES, CLAIM

By W. E. Allen

Biological Feature Service  
(San Diego Tribune)

I was much interested the other day by an article in "Science" for December 23 entitled "The Control of Diabetes in Siam by the Use of Solanaceous Plants". There is so much fakery about the use of herbs for medicine that one naturally has a feeling of caution when he sees a report of some plant which has been found highly curative.

However, this report comes from Dr. Hugh M. Smith, formerly United States commissioner of fisheries and now adviser in fisheries to the government of Siam. Besides his long experience in practical science in connection with the United States bureau of fisheries Dr. Smith is a graduate in medicine and is unusually well fitted for making a preliminary report about apparent curative properties.

He says the plants in question (probably two or three different species) belong to the genus Solanum. This genus has already proven to be of incalculable value to mankind because it has given us the potato and the tomato, in addition to some kin having medicinal value. As a matter of fact we have only recently gained full confidence in the value of the tomato. There are probably thousands of persons now living who can remember when some of their acquaintances were afraid of tomatoes because they thought they were poisonous. In consideration of the benefits derived from such kindred as the potato and the tomato which we already know, we have reason to hope that Dr. Smith's report is correct, although he very carefully says that the matter needs more study before positive claims are made.

He says that the valuable properties of the plants he mentions were discovered by a physician trained in the University of Edinburgh and practicing medicine in Siam, who noticed that a diabetic patient had curious periods of improvement at irregular intervals in the course of the disease. By careful study of foods eaten by the patient the doctor finally found that the periods of good health followed the eating of certain fruits. It was then an easy matter to try these fruits on a number of diabetic patients to make sure that the curative results came from them.

On account of the large amounts of rice and other starchy foods eaten in Siam, diabetes is very common, but Dr. Smith says he has heard that the country people have learned about this discovery and that by eating the fruits they cure themselves without medical assistance. He also says that the

(Continued on page 13)

## SPRING AT RANCHO SANTA FE

By Ruth R. Nelson

Each year Spring signals her approach at Rancho Santa Fe by the flowering of the ceanothus. Quite suddenly, along beside our many winding roadways, these very beautiful wild shrubs burst into masses of snowy blossoms which last for weeks, and give the graceful ceanothus with its shiny evergreen foliage a permanent place in our landscaping plans.

Then very soon there is added a color note more gay. The scarlet bush *mimulus* begins to blossom, crowded in many places by tall, thick clumps of fragrant nightshade. And where, except in Nature's setting of hills, mountains and sky, would such a combination of scarlet and blue-purple be so beautiful?

The first meadow plant to blossom is the dainty shooting-star, beloved by all the children as a nosegay for teacher. Wild radish and mustard spring up everywhere and grow as only such things do. Flaunting vines of trailing wild sweet peas begin to hide the especial little scrub oak that each has chosen for its buddy. Seldom do the sweet peas lend their beauty to any except these small prickly oak bushes.

There are over forty well-known wild flowers which blossom yearly at Rancho Santa Fe, and many others too inconspicuous to attract attention. In several places on the ranch we have had great colonies of blue *brodiaea*, growing so thick and tall that they look like a lavender rug thrown over the sloping meadows. Sometimes the dainty yellow *brodiaea* grows amongst the blue ones, and in other fields the bolder stalks of golden stars have crowded in upon the sticky clay banks which all these lilies seem to love. If the Indians who used to tend the flocks and herds of the Osunas, first owners of these hills as a land grant from their Spanish sovereign, could find themselves amongst our acres and acres of "grass-nuts," what a feast they could have!

Several varieties of wild onions, and the blue-eyed grass iris blossom here and there. California poppies and cream-cups brighten many plowed spaces. One spring there was a startlingly beautiful growth in one orchard of the graceful little orange wind poppy—so dainty and yet so brilliant. Upon two widely separated hillsides of the ranch yellow violets blossom amongst ferns and sagebrush. Another high spot is beautiful each year with tall blue pentstemon. These plants are being carefully preserved by the owners of this piece of land.

Acres of tangled thistle-sage, mallow, *mi-mosa*, wild buckwheat and bush sun-flowers have long since disappeared to be replaced by citrus or avocado orchards. But there are

still numberless "wild places" where man-zinita, rhus, scrub-oak, sumac, yucca, wild tobacco, wild gooseberry, wild cherry and ceanothus are growing undisturbed; while elder, willows, cat-tails and morning-star are growing in the damp places. There are also many tree-sized clumps of *toyon* upon the ranch. These were at their best again this year, still loaded with their scarlet berries at Christmas time.

There are two varieties of yucca at Rancho Santa Fe; the broad leafed dagger plant which has a low-set blossom, beautiful but very inconspicuous compared with the gloriously tall stalks of the finer leafed variety. On our "High Line" road, just west of La Morada, there is a splendid group of these yuccas which seem to blossom every year, their stately beauty fitting naturally into our carefully studied Spanish plans.

One of our unusual shrubs is the wild orange which, like our cultivated citrus plants, blossoms and bears fruit at the same time. It is usually rather a small bush, has very fine leaves and small white flowers. The berries are tiny but show a pitted skin like their better relatives. There is a strongly pungent odor to this plant, and very unpleasant.

What have we left unmentioned? Lupins, of course, grow here and there, dainty western wall-flowers, larkspurs, live-forevers, silver-tip daisies, lavender daisies, a few sea-dahlias near the ranch border and even the hard-to-find mission bell lilies, all grow at Rancho Santa Fe. These last were discovered in a rocky nook of the Douglas Fairbanks ranch.

Finally in the season's blossom procession follow the lilac, then the yellow *mariposas* and our beautiful mint bush, *romero*. Last year this low fragrant bush with its odd, stamen-filled, blue-velvet flowers blossomed far into the summer. Near the upper end of the new golf course the *romero* has crowded out all other shrubs except the *mimulus*, making a blue-clad hillside whose beauty is emphasized by nodding yellow *mariposas*, poised on their slender stems above the bushes, like the butterflies for which they are named.

Some mention should be given in this article of the efforts which are being made at Rancho Santa Fe to preserve the native shrubbery wherever this has been possible. Hardly a bit of landscaping has been done here without including some of the wild shrubs. In many places the ceanothus, *romero*, rhus, *toyon*, yucca and *mimulus* have been left in their own chosen places. However they also transplant well and with morning star for the damp cool places we hope to preserve many of our native plants.

Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego County.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.



# The March and April Gardens

## THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch

March is one of the busiest months in the garden and, after the middle of the month it is practically Dahlia planting time again, although many Dahlia growers will not plant for some time yet. The Dahlia being such a wonderful and popular flower I shall give some practical directions regarding planting and care of same, largely taken from reliable authorities on this subject.

An open and sunny location is the best for Dahlias, and like many other plants and bulbs, best results are obtained by thorough preparation of the soil several weeks previous to planting time by spading in well rotted barn yard fertilizer or sheep manure. Before planting spade up the ground again and plant the tubers two to three feet apart each way. Use a redwood stake five to six feet tall at time of planting, driving same well into the ground. Place tubers about two inches from stake in a horizontal position with the eye up and nearest the stake covering to a depth of four or five inches in heavy soil and five to six inches if the soil is light. Do not make the common mistake of standing the tuber on end. If the eyes have not developed on your tubers before planting, it is well to start them by placing in moist saw dust some time before planting, probably a week or two.

If the soil is moist and in good condition at time of planting, do not apply water until the sprout shows through the surface.

When the Dahlia has reached the height of three or four leaf parts, the top should be pinched out. This will start the plant branching.

Cultivation is important, and the soil should be kept loose around the young plants at all times. When plants are well developed the fibrous root system comes nearer the surface, and these roots should not be disturbed, therefore cultivation should cease, and a good mulch of some well rotted manure should be used over the entire surface, to conserve the moisture and protect root system. As the plants grow they require considerable water, a light porous well drained soil requiring more water and more fertilizer than a heav-

ier one. Watering by trench along both sides of rows, allowing water to run slowly and soak deeply is a good method, and if ground will permit running trenches in opposite direction, alternate by running water in this way every other irrigation. Fill in and lightly cultivate trenches to conserve moisture. Sprinkle plants occasionally in the evening to keep foliage clean, and help control insect pests.

As the plant grows tie securely to dahlia stake with raffia or cloth.

The pests that most commonly attack Dahlias are thrips and red spider, and twenty drops of Black Leaf "40" to one quart of water should take care of thrips. For Mildew and red spider, dust with Anchor Brand Sulphur or spray with Qau Sul, one tablespoonful to one gallon of water.

For snails, slugs and cut worms which are sometimes troublesome, use Snarol.

\* \* \*

Continue to plant bulbs of Montbretia, Canas and Tube Rose, they are all worth while, and don't forget the beautiful Gladioli for a succession of blooms. Tuberous Begonia bulbs are now showing sprouts, so it is a good time to plant them. Set out plants of Gerbera or Transvaal Daisies, Delphinium Bella Donna, Hybrida and Hollyhock, Stocks, Larkspur, African Daisy, Godetia, Clarkia, Coreopsis, Gaillardia and many others.

Plant seeds of Asters and Zinnias, of the latter don't forget to try a packet of the Liliput, Salmon Queen, bloom of which is just like a dainty salmon colored pompon dahlia. Of course, you have planted some of the new shades of Dahlia Flowered Zinnia, they are very much worth while, also the Pastel Shades in the Giant Doubles.

Work a little bone meal in the soil around your growing plants and keep a mulch of Groz It Fertilizer (pulverized sheep manure) on the surface, to be gradually worked in.

Aphis is much in evidence so use Black Leaf "40" and soap, and don't disappoint the snails by forgetting to feed them a little Snarol.

# The California Garden

Editor  
R. R. McLean  
Associate Editors  
John Bakkers  
Alfred D. Robinson

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## SHALL WE PROTECT CACTI AND OTHER NATIVE SUCCULENTS?

It is proposed that some effort be made to protect cacti and other succulents growing wild on public property from commercial exploitation on the part of collectors. It is reported in some instances that wagon loads of cacti have recently been taken from the hills and shipped to distant markets. The following list of cacti that may possibly be almost if not entirely exterminated from San Diego County by unauthorized exploitation has been compiled by Miss Fidella G. Woodcock, Curator of Plants, Natural History Museum, San Diego:

Mamillaria dioica—Strawberry Cactus.  
Mamillaria Goodridgii—Strawberry Cactus.  
Mamillaria Grahamii—Fish-hook Cactus (near the desert).  
Echinocactus vividescens—Hedgehog Cactus (green flowered).  
Opuntia megacantha (Arborescent)—Tuna "Prickly Pear".  
Opuntia ficus-indica (Mission Cactus)—"Indian Fig", Prickly Pear.  
Opuntia occidentalis (Var. Littoralis)—"Prickly Pear" (near the coast).  
Cereus Emory—Torch Cactus (near the sea toward Mexican boundary).

The only immediate remedy, should a remedy be thought necessary, lies in a County Ordinance protecting these plants. At present, the only plants covered by County Ordinance here are three species of Yucca. A movement is now on foot among Horticultural Commissioners of the state to place under state protection a long list of native plants, but that cannot be accomplished for another year or a year and a half at least. What is the sentiment among members of the Floral Association and readers of the Garden magazine concerning this matter of cacti protection? It should be remembered that most of the plants named above are useful and ornamental forms that are distinctive as landmarks in this locality, and are rarely found in other places. It is assumed that the protection contemplated is for the purpose of preventing commercial exploitation of these plants, and will not interfere with private collectors, except under reasonable restrictions. The Editor will be glad to hear from readers of the Garden.

## A FEW "DOS"

DO remember the convention of Federated Women's Clubs to be held in our city May 8-12.  
DO remember that all kinds of beautiful flowers will be needed for the affair.  
DO remember that sweet peas and gladiolas will be needed in abundance.  
DO remember that the Floral Association must help San Diego give the impression of a bower of flowers.  
DO remember that in order to do this we must take care of our gardens.  
DO prune poinsettias at this time and plant the cuttings.—M. A. G.

## THE MOUNTAINS

I will hie me to the mountains  
Where the honey bee gathers its sweets,  
Away from the busy city  
With its noise and crowded streets.

For there on my peaceful mountains  
All nature is happy and free,  
No hatred, or malice, or envy,  
But just as God meant it should be.

And there on my purple mountains  
I will watch the shadows play,  
As the sun sinks into the distance  
At the close of each peaceful day.

And there on my grand old mountains  
With their beauty, and strength, and age,  
The "Waters of Life" are mingled  
With the perfume of the sage.

—H. W. G.

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**MARCH WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO**

Dean Blake

During this month the temperature begins its upward march. The increase, though, is gradual, and is most noticeable in the minimum readings. The frost hazard, while not entirely past, becomes much less, and freezing temperatures are only occasionally recorded in the agricultural valleys. Danger from a "freeze" is remote.

Since the establishment of the station in 1871, there has not been a March without some rain, although in 1887, 0.02 inches was the total fall during the month. As a rule, storms are attended by strong, gusty winds which sometimes reach velocities of 35 to 40 miles an hour, and blow for several days at a time.

A slight increase in cloudiness is noted, and a corresponding decrease in the amount of sunshine, which, however, continues ample. The humidity changes little from that of February.

Quoting a few statistics: The highest temperature ever recorded during the month was 99 degrees in 1879; the lowest, 36 in 1894. The average rainfall is 1.50 inches, and over two inches has been measured 16 times since the record began. In 1867, 7.88 inches fell during the month. The average sunshine is 64 per cent of the possible, and the average humidity is 74 per cent.

**GARDEN CLUB**

San Diego people love flowers and prove it in many ways. There is a garden club there which has been holding two big flower shows a year for over twenty years. The society has more than 300 members, representing both professional and amateur growers, and, as well, there are many who do not grow but love flowers. The society has a place in Balboa Park which is furnished for the smaller shows throughout the year and the organization receives a great deal of help and encouragement from John Morley, the superintendent of city parks.

Recently the members held an acacia show, with the president, Mrs. Mary Greer, declares was most interesting and instructive. Miss K. O. Sessions, a widely known authority on plants, who has had a nursery business in San Diego for over thirty years, brought some of the rarer specimens and gave a fine talk on the acacia family. Such shows are held frequently and are a valuable means of educating the buying public to appreciate and enjoy plant life, one that nurserymen ought to be interested in.

For many years this society has been publishing a little magazine, called "California Gardens," which is widely circulated among

plant lovers. Many authorities have contributed to it from time to time.—H. W. K. in Florists Review.

**MARCH MEETING**

Mr. Robert McLean, Horticultural Commissioner, and Editor of the California Garden, will speak on "Garden Pests and Their Control" at the regular monthly meeting, Tuesday evening, March 20th. All who know Mr. McLean will want to hear his talk and those who are not familiar with him should not miss this opportunity of hearing him, for he is an authority on this subject, and of making his acquaintance.

Refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting.

**SPRING BULB SHOW**

The little bulb show which we have each year, will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, March 15th, in our building in the park at two o'clock. It is hoped by the committee in charge that if you have only one bloom of good quality you will feel the urge to share it with others and encourage them to plant more bulbs in their own gardens. There will be no admission charge. Tea will be served at four o'clock. With the permission of the exhibitors some of the blooms will be sold. Come and bring your friends. The building will be open at one o'clock to receive the exhibits.

**FEBRUARY MEETING**

The regular monthly meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held Tuesday evening, February 21st in the Floral Building. Mr. Birch, our Vice-President presided over the meeting and with a few well-chosen remarks introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. McNabb, to the large audience who had gathered to listen to Mr. McNabb's talk on "Spring Planting".

Mr. McNabb prefaced his remarks by naming various reasons for having a garden—among them and in his estimation most important of all "healthful exercise". He then named many seeds and plants which may be started now—such as Asters, Centaurea, Gailardia, Godetia, Petunias, a variety of the last named, Giants of California, are a sensation over the whole world. It is interesting to know that they have to be pollinated by hand. He enumerated many others too numerous to mention. The necessity for cultivation was stressed. No amount of fertilizing or irrigating will do any good without cultivation. The root system of the plant must have air. After he concluded his talk Mr. McNabb answered many questions put by his interested listeners. Refreshments were then served by the House Committee.

W. SINCLAIR, Sec.

## "BLACK CHRISTMAS" CAUSED DAMAGE AT SHAW'S GARDEN

### Computer Shows Each Person in City Breathed 1 1/4 Ounces of Soot from Sunday's Smoky Fog

Every person in St. Louis is estimated to have breathed 1 1/4 ounces of soot Christmas Day in the "black Christmas" which did the most extensive smoke damage at Shaw's Garden since 1924.

Leaves were literally burned from hundreds of plants. In the Economic House and others the foliage loss was estimated at 25 per cent and the ground was littered with yellow leaves. Many begonias were completely denuded. About 75 per cent of the young tropical lilies for next summer's exhibit, a chief attraction at the garden, were lost, and \$7200 worth of fine cineraria plants for the March show had to be thrown away.

The amount of soot breathed was computed from the readings of the smoke-measuring machine at the garden, which periodically filters the soot from two liters of air, leaving the residue on a chart where scientists may measure it with exactitude and keep it permanently for comparison with other readings.

It does not include large particles of soot, which were numerous in the air of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, nor the gases which are considered a large factor in the harmful effects of city smoke.

#### Total Soot Fall, Five Tons

The machine is inside, and so persons who were out of doors or in the more densely smoky area of Mill Creek Valley probably inhaled more than 1 1/4 ounces. Since soot is comparatively light, that would amount to several tablespoonfuls. It was estimated, with the reservation that height of the smoke cloud was pure conjecture, that the soot deposit on the city for 24 hours Sunday, if the cloud was 100 feet high, would be 10.542 pounds.

Sulphur fumes caused most of the leaf damage at the garden, although constant deposits of soot in time will kill any but the hardiest plants—and have killed most of the evergreens at the garden. The fumes, which by combination with moisture in the air contain free sulphuric acid, "burn" leaves exactly like an overdose of hydrocyanic gas, George H. Pring, horticulturist, explained.

Virtually all the shrubs in greenhouses except the palms, with their heavy, hard foliage, were affected. "Burnt" leaves which did not fall will all have to be cut off, he said, with ultimate damage to the plant. Begonia leaves were attacked at the stem and fell, while leaves of the cineraria withered completely or curled up at the edges. All except 200 of 2000 cineraria plants in one greenhouse were ruined.

As Pring passed a young Missouri "cedar"—really a juniper—in the huge concrete vases beside the plaza lily pools, he ran his hand over the foliage and exhibited it, black with soot.

"These evergreens were brought in from Gray's Summit a month ago," he said. "They will scarcely last through the spring."

#### Forced to Open Extension

City smoke, as most St. Louisans know, has forced the institution, supported entirely by the benevolence of the late Henry Shaw, to establish a 1600-acre extension at Gray's Summit, 40 miles from St. Louis and city conditions. Evergreens, orchids and other easily affected plants are grown out there. When the thousands of rare orchid plants in the garden collection were transferred to the country greenhouses, it was found necessary to give each a scrubbing with fine-grained earth to remove the soot.

Earlier tests by the smoke measuring machine have shown that inexpert home firing no less than factories, contributes to the nuisance; that every St. Louisan inhales an average of 28 pounds of soot a year, and that the annual soot precipitation is 40 tons a square mile, or 2640 tons for the area of the city.

#### "A FLORAL GENTLEMAN"

The Chrysanthemum, or "Golden Flower" has a history which goes back 2,000 years and it has been grown in this country for 170 years. It is more highly esteemed by the Japanese than by any other nation; in Japan it ranks as one of the four floral gentlemen, the others being the Orchid, Plum and Bamboo. In one or more of its numerous forms the Chrysanthemum is indispensable to every garden, whether in town, suburb or country. It is extraordinarily amenable to the requirements of the cultivator; it is possible to have two or three immense blooms on a plant, or any number—from six to one hundred or more—of smaller blooms, it can be grown under glass and out of doors. According to the treatment given to them, the plants vary from 12 inches to 6 feet in height; they may be grown in flower pots, borders or window boxes. Cuttings may be taken at almost any time from November to June. It may be of interest to mention that the first Chrysanthemum Show held in this country was at Norwich in 1845. At the National Chrysanthemum Show held in London last week, an exhibit for trained specimen plants, each having scores of blooms, was a feature. They were shown by Lady Macnaghten. Perhaps the most attractive variety was "Jean Patisson," of crimson and gold color.—Popular Gardening.



## LATE GARDENING BOOKS IN OUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

A cartoon of a young garden enthusiast generally pictures him with a book of directions in one hand and a trowel and package of seeds in the other. This may be an exaggerated conception of the relationship between books and gardens, but undoubtedly books have their place in garden planning and garden success. Miss Helen Dysart, superintendent of the order department of the Public Library suggests the following books as garden aids. They are titles which have been added to the Public Library during the past year.

Bose, Sir Jagadis Chandra—"Plant Autographs and Their Meaning."

A book that is as interesting as it is startling. An account of many experiments and their results by a person who sees plants as though they were flesh and blood individuals.

Bush-Brown, Louise—"Flowers for Every Garden."

This book is for the amateur and he will find a wealth of practical advice and information. Mrs. Bush-Brown is director of the School of Horticulture for Women at Ambler, Pennsylvania.

DuCane, Florence—"The Flowers and Gardens of Madeira."

An account of the lovely, colorful gardens of this island. Many of the flowers and plants may be grown here.

Giles, Dorothy—"The Little Kitchen Garden". Tells how to make a small plot of ground both useful and beautiful. Useful information on the essentials of growing vegetables, fruit and flowers.

King, Mrs. L.—"Beginner's Garden".

An excellent handbook for the inexperienced gardener, practical, well illustrated, and written by an expert.

McKinney—"Iris in the Little Garden".

The increasing interest of garden growers in the iris makes this book timely. Mrs. McKinney is among the American authorities on this flower, and in 1923 she was awarded the Emily D. Renwick medal of achievement for her work with the iris. She writes with zest and authority on her subject.

McLean—"Gladiolus Book".

Three authorities have collaborated in the preparation of this book. They discuss the history, selection, culture, and handling from season to season. The illustrations are very good.

Mitchell—"Gardening in California".

This book is included because it is standard on the subject of gardening in California. There are copies in all the branches as well as the main library.

Rockwell, F. F.—"Book of Bulbs".

This book opens up new avenues for accomplishment and endeavor for the person interested in bulbs. It is a practical book and of great interest, especially to the beginner.

Wilder—"Colour in My Garden".

A fascinating account of what one woman accomplished in her garden. Miss Wilder has rare taste as well as a practical knowledge of plants, and she writes most delightfully of the procession of color she kept in a garden for a whole year.

## YOU CAN GROW 'MUMS IN YOUR OWN GARDEN

Chrysanthemum culture has been largely a commercial affair, with most of the growers striving to develop plants producing flowers as large as possible. For the amateur gardener the very large flowered commercial varieties are not generally practical, but the smaller blossoms may form one of the striking features of the autumn garden, for no other plant at that time has so great a range of color and form. The smaller blossomed plants, as a rule, flower earlier, and by selecting proper strains it is possible to grow chrysanthemums in almost all of the United States except the extreme northern tier of states and the hot wind-swept sections of the Great Plains. In most states north of the Ohio River and north of central New York only the most enduring varieties of the chrysanthemum are hardy, but the summer is long enough to permit bloom on the early flowering sorts, which can be grown almost like bedding plants and wintered in frost-proof frames or cellars. In the South, except southern Florida, all types of chrysanthemums are at home.

One of the frequent causes of lack of success with chrysanthemums is failure to fertilize the soil adequately. These plants are gross feeders and when planted should have a liberal supply of stable manure or compost in the bed. Later in the summer extra feeding is advantageous, and is applied usually in liquid form, alternating liquid manure, solutions of nitrate of soda, and sulphate of ammonia. This fertilization should be stopped by the time the color begins to show in the buds.

Further details of chrysanthemum culture, including directions for preparing the soil, for summer pruning or stopping, fertilizing, staking, disbudding, propagation, and a discussion of varieties may be obtained by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture.

### BIRDS INJURIOUS TO AGRICULTURE

Certain species of birds are apparently becoming more of an agricultural pest in Southern and Central California each year, notwithstanding the fact that it needs no argument to convince most of us that, leaving all other considerations aside, birds in general actually are an indispensable check to ever increasing hordes of insects seemingly with no other mission in life than to destroy our flowers, our lettuce, our spinach and our turnips. A number of competent and well-balanced entomologists believe that insects are gradually winning in the age long fight with man. Without the constant aid of birds, this warfare would undoubtedly result in a more or less sudden debacle with insects in the ascendancy.

To return to the question of damage to crops by birds, the principal offenders are our common linnets (house finches) and the Gambel sparrows. The finches are with us during the entire year, but the sparrow spends his winter and spring in Southern California and Mexico, and his summers in the north. During his stay here and on his migration north, especially during February and March when buds are breaking on the fruit trees and tender young vegetables are coming through the ground, complaints of injuries to such trees and crops are received daily by Horticultural officials. Although in San Diego County damage is principally confined to vegetable plantings, yet injury to peach and apricot buds is not inconsiderable. Early in this present month, for example, one vegetable grower reported to the writer that some 1500 young tomato plants had been destroyed in one day by sparrows. They were so thick in the tomato field that one shot brought down 15.

Even greater damage is done by these two species of birds in the foothill regions of Kern, Tulare and Fresno Counties. It is reported that one apricot grower with 40 acres near Exeter lost his entire crop from this source last year. Another grower of miscellaneous fruit near Porterville with some 200 acres has already lost his possible crop of 20 acres of Tragedy Plums, and the next variety to bud, Climax, is now going the same way. Still another grower near Strathmore lost practically every peach in a large orchard, due to destruction of the buds by linnets and sparrows.

Should such birds be destroyed or not? Those of us who are not directly interested, perhaps, say no. These birds do so much more good than harm during the course of their lives in the destruction of harmful insects and weed seeds, that they ought to be

protected for the benefit of all of us. Others who are dependent upon the crops destroyed do not look upon the matter quite so philosophically as do the rest of us. Sparrows and linnets are not under state or other protection, although it seems to be a well established principal of law that one may kill birds or other animals even though protected by law when they are actually destroying property, always providing that one does not in any way make use of the dead bird or animal. A solution of the problem does not, however, seem to be at hand as it is one thing to propose to protect crops in this manner and another thing to successfully do it.

### ALFRED D. ROBINSON TO LECTURE

Alfred D. Robinson, famous begonia grower, Point Loma, is to give a lecture on his specialty at Barker Bros.' auditorium, Los Angeles, in March. His talk will be illustrated by slides which show the begonias in their actual colors. Even at this time of year, Mr. Robinson has many fine specimens in bloom, due largely to the unusual type of lath house he uses.

Fred C. McNabb, vice-president of the Aggeler & Musser Seed Co., spoke before the San Diego Floral Society at the February meeting and while in the south made one of his frequent inspection trips over the fields which produce the bulbs which his firm buys. This is Mr. McNabb's usual procedure with regard to the crops which yield seed and bulbs for his firm. He believes in keeping a close eye on conditions which surround the production of these things.—H. W. K.

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### VOCATIONAL OUT-OF-DOOR TRAINING

In a recent letter of Mrs. Charlotte M. Wilder of Carlotta, Humboldt County, California, one of our members of the G. M. B. S., reference is made to "The Dingbat of Arcady," a book by Marguerite Wilkinson first published by Scribner's Magazine, and later by the MacMillan Company of 1922. It is a most personal record of small but sprightly adventures, camping trips and boat trips by the author and her husband, in Oregon, in San Diego County, California, in the eastern states, and in England. The trips are made with the crudest of equipment and are full of hardships along with the adventures, but the account of it is so full of the poetic description and noble philosophy and so much of it might almost have been written of my own journeyings and adventures and hardships as I went on foot through the mountains and valleys of Northern, Southern and Lower California. that it appeals to me more than any similar account that I have ever read.

Mrs. Wilder says: "I should be glad if any contribution of mine to the bulletins seems worthy of further publication. And I was so pleased with 'The Dingbat' that I should be glad to have it recommended to other readers. As it chanced, the letter is one of the very few I have kept a copy of, and there is nothing in it that I should object to have reprinted if you think it will help to give someone an impulse to see something more of the out-of-doors and to spare its beauties.

"Have you seen the statement that Riverside County has passed an ordinance against the planting of bill boards on the county highways? In one small section 160 signs were removed. It seemed that the property in the vicinity of the signs was not selling—and on finding that it was the signs that were rendering it undesirable, the owners started the campaign against them.

"Wouldn't it be something to work for,—a condemnation of this nuisance? I have 'with my own fair hands' removed, and deposited under logs or bridges, 390 small signs from redwood trees. They are the favorite place for signs of candidates for office, and even the defeated candidates seem to have no pride in the matter, but leave the signs to advertise their own defeat."

The work of Mrs. Wilder in the line of vocational out-of-door training gives girls a chance to study the advantages of free, active service to the localities where such advantages of organized study are desirable—life in the great out-of-doors is worthy of becoming an avocation in itself.

Quoting the words of the author of "The Dingbat"—"Flowers, like the abstract idea of beauty, are much abused in custom and conversation. Our affection for them is lasting and sincere but rather vulgar. No doubt I seem crude when I handle bloodroot or trillium or cream-cups, if there be gods or fairies watching, or finer mortals with gentler hands. Our ways of touching flowers is a revelation or a betrayal.

"Nor can we know them by possessing them, by having them in our houses. We might as well try to understand normal humanity by seeing it in prisons and hospitals. If we would know flowers we must live near them. The flowers that do most for us are those we never pick. We never see them fade. To walk in golden mustard eight feet tall by a California roadside while the petals and pollen shower bright gold on our heads and shoulders is good. To kneel on the mesa by the tiny pink Gilia that covers the earth with bright patches after the rains, lifting its plucky blossoms on little thread-like stems, that also is good. People who have broken their bread in the sight of such flowers and taken their rest beside them are less likely to pick them. They have exchanged the lust of possession for the desire of beauty."

FIDELLA G. WOODCOCK,

San Diego Natural History Museum.

### HOW THE BANANA WAS NAMED

"Early inhabitants of the East believed that the banana plant was the source of good and evil and that the serpent which tempted Eve hid in a bunch of the fruit," writes W. T. Pope of the Hawaii Experiment Station of the United States Department of Agriculture. "Undoubtedly this legend influenced the early classifiers who designated two species of the plant as *Musa paradisiaca* (Fruit of Paradise) and *Musa sapientum* (Fruit of Knowledge)." The common name, "banana," was adopted from the language of an African Congo tribe, and first came into use during the sixteenth century. Prior to that time the fruit was called "apple of paradise" and "Adam's fig". The name "banana" seems to have been borne for a long period by the fruit, which was eaten raw. The term "plantain" was given to a variety which, though closely related to the banana, is edible only after being cooked. The generic name "*Musa*" for the banana group was bestowed by the botanist Linnaeus in honor of Antonius Musa, a learned physician of the early Roman Empire.



# LATH HOUSE MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson.

That vast depository of Flora lore, P. D. Barnhart, in a recent article of his, suggests that I am so Begonia sodden that I don't know any other plant exists. One might fairly infer that he thinks my blood is a Begonia pink, that I am as one sided as the average Begonia leaf, and that my pod when it arrives will be three-winged. I am going to prove him partly mistaken at any rate because I open this monthly spiel with a Petunia, but I must confess that my interest in it is largely Begonia colored. This is the latest and best of the Petunias of Mrs. Francis of Ventura and she has called it "Theodosia" after her mother, Mrs. Shepherd. Theodosia appears in color on the front page of the catalogue of the American Bulb Company who are introducing it. They describe it as a rosy pink with golden center which contains minute stripes and proceed to connect it with all the virtues and Mrs. Theodosia Shepherd, but I do not find that Mrs. Francis is mentioned, but of course she did nothing but originate the variety. It seems quite in place that I should quote from a letter of Mrs. Francis in which she says: "Just how the statement got into print that my mother specialized in petunias, I do not know, except that we have always carried the name of Shepherd. However, you know that her crowning glory was the begonia and she felt they were her greatest achievement. She developed Cosmos, introducing it from Mexico in the early days, Escholtzia "Golden West", Nasturtiums "Sunlight and Moonlight", many Chrysanthemums, Curley Locks, Firefly, Radiance, etc., Heliotrope, Her Royal Highness, many Abutilons, Baby Roses, Rose Oriole, Geraniums and many other things long forgotten and too numerous to mention." I am hoping to some day have arrive at Rosecroft a new Begonia that I can deem worthy of being called Theodosia Shepherd, and in the meantime I see nothing for it but to put in the wait growing the Theodosia petunia.

A man named Kipling who got himself in Dutch by suggesting that the female of the species was more deadly than the male, also said that Never the East and West could meet, but that was before Henry Ford flivvered the Universe. Today they do meet in the entrance of my lathhouse where a Chinese temple gong sits in its lacquered stand upon an old Ford tire. It used to rest its fat base on a ring of straw wrapped in cotton cloth, but this with age deflated till the gong touched the stand and some of its resonance was lost. Sadly regarding the original ring

and reflecting on its possible retreading, I looked up at the sound of a marching irregular army and saw the kiddies brigade go by dragging an old tire and an inspiration arrived. I commandeered that tire and cut it through the waist and telescoped it to fit and it fitted so perfectly that I don't understand why the old priests did not use old Ford tires in the first place.

This is the first of March and we who proudly entered the New Year with a magnificent excess of rain are now regarding a deficiency. Prophets are silent but there are a few clouds. May I suggest that I hope you have followed my constant admonition to irrigate when it rains and suit yourselves when it is dry, this is the only safe course. I have run sprinklers all over the lathhouse three times this winter leaving them in the same place half a day at a time and yet it is too dry. I often hate this job of pretending I know something about Lathhouse culture. I realize that I have been saying "Keep this and that on the dry side this month," and here we have no other side and every darned thing has wanted watering. You must water now and keep on doing so as new growth appears everywhere. This must be an active time, a time to pot, and a time to repot, and a time to think about making cuttings. Everything should be inspected carefully and every pot and basket will want something done.

Tuberous Begonias are definitely sprouting, it is early but once they start they cannot be held, with a few precautions these are very easily handled, they will do well in the ground in pots or baskets. Don't plant too deep just covered is enough, the hollow side is the top, put a little sand round the tuber and never let them dry once started. A coarse rich mixture is the proper planting medium.

Streptocarpus are pushing, they like partial shade, a cool situation and will stand for a good deal of feeding. These plants should be studied more, they come from South Africa in a similar climate to this and should be perfectly at home, so far we have followed our usual procedure, we grow them first in a greenhouse and throw them out when they are unhappy, then some one gives them a frigidaire treatment and again they go to the discard. This is the end of lots of things that might be a real joy. Some day I hope to be able to say that such and such seems to be the right treatment for Streptocarpus, but I have not got that far, however, they seem to have wintered splendidly in benches with all the sun and weather the

lath would allow. They do not seem to require much pot space though their huge leaves might indicate it, but they do want a generous and continuous supply of water, and a South African born suggests frequent overhead sprinkling.

That . . . sparrow is at my wistaria again and simply slaughtering the buds, he does it while I shout at him and threaten a vengeance I cannot wreak. The latest suggestion is that I hang up rabbit skins, quite a new idea to me, of course I know about Baby Bunting and his father going a hunting but his aim was to clothe the baby, not to scare birds. Is there an Audubon Society in San Diego or any other place not too far removed? If so, let it please take notice that I want them to come and get their birds. Only the other day I was told that a well known radio gardener had taken a brief for these sparrows and said they ate more bugs than plants. If he has bugs he may have my birds and perhaps he may make them behave. I have a suspicion that the whole thing is a bolshevist plot to pay me for covering up the chicken feed barrels and refusing to grow a vegetable garden for their amusement. Why a sparrow anyhow?

A few months ago I recommended you to read a book by Sir Jagadis Chunder Bose called Plant Autographs and their Revelations, this I find I should not have done since I have also read a review of the work in the magazine Science by a College Professor, it appears that the book is "as dangerous as fascinating," it is too readable for a really scientific work and its language is not exact. My mistake was one of ignorance. I did not understand the Bose formula and much less do I follow the corrections of his critic and I have always a bit shamefacedly liked to think of my plants as personalities rather than specimens. I am not at ease with a companion who can talk botanically but I love one who thinks the plants say Good Morning and Kiss Good Night.

## CURE IS FOUND FOR DIABETES, CLAIM

(Continued from page 3)

fruits are commonly on sale in the markets of the cities, enough for five days costing about 5 cents in our money. Apparently these fruits are much like our nightshade berries while unripe, becoming yellowish in color at ripening when they are about the size of large peas.

He suggests that the plant and its values be carefully studied and that if it proves to be what is claimed for it, efforts should be made to introduce it into sub-tropical parts of the United States. Perhaps here is another opportunity for California to add to her list of valuable fruit products.

## THE MONKEY PUZZLE

Once upon a . . . a . . . of a girl named . . . met a young man at a party. He said, "I think you and I would make a good . . ." and he . . . if he might call. He was not very good looking as his . . . stuck out oddly from his head and he had . . . shaped eyes; but he was a . . . among the ladies even though he was not handsome and his pockets were as empty as a . . . for he had that elusive quality, charm. So she said he might call and he did often and their friendship ripened into love.

He was so ardent he would . . . her to his heart and sigh again saying, "When I am away from you I . . . for you continuously." Such words made her cheeks grow . . . and her . . . white hands tremble and when he told her he loved her it made her so . . . she shivered for joy and said, "I don't give a . . . for any man but you. You are a . . . and life for me will be perfect if you . . ."

"I will never forget you," he murmured, as he . . . from his knees to kill a . . . that flew around the light.

"You . . . do that," she said, "You'll get your hands full of dust."

She asked him if he knew the difference between a male and female onion and when he said "no" she coyly returned "You don't know your . . ." A gale of laughter relieved them from the strain of their fervent lovemaking. Everyone knows there is no . . . like a good laugh.

"And now you must go," she said. "It is growing late."

"Well," said he, "if you . . . I must but give me a glass of . . . first please."

"That is just a . . . to stay longer. The . . . I'll give you will be the . . ."

"I shall have a . . . if you send me away so soon."

"Let it bleed, old dear. You'll have something visibly bleeding if my father wakes up."

So he had to go lest he should . . . it if he stayed.

## THE BLACK SWAN.

The solution of the above horticultural puzzle will appear in next month's magazine. Each blank is to be filled in with the name of a plant, flower or tree. The prize for a correct solution is a bag of chestnuts.

## SWEET PEAS REVEL IN RICH FARE; PLANTS LIKE TO LIVE IN TRENCHES

This is the month to get the later crop of sweet peas into the ground.

The trench method of planting is now accepted as the most efficient and productive of the finest quality flowers and the longest blooming season. It has been adopted in gardens both north and south. Sweet peas are cool-weather flowers. The hot weather finishes their period of usefulness and induces insect pests which speedily put the vines out of commission. They particularly need a cool root run and this is where the trench comes in. The seed is planted three-quarters of an inch deep in the bottom of a six-inch trench. As the vines mount upward the trench is gradually filled until it is again level with the surface and sweet pea roots are thus buried six inches and safe from the scorching sun in any sudden hot spells.

Sweet peas revel in rich fare. They need heavy fertilizer. The best corn land is the best sweet pea land. They need soil of heavy texture and retentive of moisture. Light soils require the incorporation of large quantities of manure, well decayed, to furnish humus, and careful attention as to watering. As sandy soils take heat more easily than heavy soil, a mulch is also a needful precaution to prolong the blooming season.

Sweet peas for many years were sown so thickly that no individual vine ever had a chance to show what it could do. With modern gardening knowledge, the vines are spaced at least six inches apart and make twice the height and thickness of stem with a much greater quantity of bloom and larger and finer-quality flowers. Frequent stirring of the earth helps to retain moisture. They are most effectively planted in blocks of a single color.

### IT IS TIME TO PRUNE WHAT?

The winter blooming vines such as *Bignonia Venusta*, *Tecoma Queen of Sheba*, the Climbing *Syringa* will all be grateful for a pretty good pruning right now. The two former vines will bloom on the new summer's growth next winter and a rather heavy pruning of all the last year's growth is desirable. The new growth will be much more vigorous and in the fall and winter the blooms will be more abundant.

Poinsettias, Honeysuckle, Hibiscus, Oleanders also should be well pruned as they are summer growers and fall and winter bloomers. If roses have been neglected they should be pruned at once but not too heavily, clearing out all the little and feeble branches.

(Continued on page 16)

# RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP



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### THE WILD CAROLINA JASMINE

*Gelsemium Sempervirens* is the native Jasmine of the Carolinas and is known in the wild for its beauty and its perfume. In years past a few plants have been growing successfully in San Diego but is very seldom seen in cultivation in Southern California. I have always admired its dainty foliage and clear yellow bloom. I have planted four vines on my pergola posts and lath house and to my surprise they have shown vigor and hardiness and have been in bloom all through December, January and February, and are still in full bloom. Its flowering sprays are desirable for cut flower work and for a vine when lightness is desired. It climbs by twining its branches so some support is necessary. A light wooden trellis, or soft coarse strings or light rope or a single wire with loops in which a string is tied—to tie to the vine—but under no consideration use chicken fence wire for this or any other vine.

In our city we now have over 40 good vines and the winter blooming Carolina Jasmine is a very welcome addition to the collection.

Reasoner's Nursery, of Florida, says this vine is not cultivated to the extent that it deserves and it is useful as a ground cover and for fences. Its roots are used medicinally.

K. O. SESSIONS.



## SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS

(Continued from page 1)

The country there remains as nature made it. The hand of man has not yet been raised against the forests of pine, fir and tamarix. The streams still rush unchecked through the deep granite canyons and plunge with heedless abandon over great falls to settle in Hidden Lake. There are mountain meadows carpeted with wild flowers, edged with lodge pole pine and fir, watered by springs and creeks; ideal camping places, but only for those hardy enough to depend on saddle horses and pack animals, or their own good legs, for transportation, for this is one place which even the "digger" has been unable to penetrate. If there are to be state parks in Southern California, and there surely should be, Mount San Jacinto deserves to be listed among the first sites to be considered."

San Jacinto Peak is located in the center of Southern California. The summit is 10,805 feet above sea level, and practically at the foot to the east lies the Salton Sea, 280 feet below sea level. Standing on the east rim one looks down a sheer precipice of almost nine thousand feet on to the Coachella Valley where is located the largest commercial date plantings in the new world, nearly one thousand acres of 50,000 date bearing palms. From the summit of San Jacinto a panorama of the entire Southland is disclosed to the view. To the south and east are the mountains of Arizona and Mexico, and to the west the Pacific Coastline and Coronado Islands, a distance of 140 or 150 miles. Mount Whitney at the north, the highest peak of the Sierras, 14,511 feet, and on the west the city of Los Angeles, Catalina Island and the beautiful Pacific Ocean. The view from this point is awe inspiring. Looking down ten thousand feet on to the productive Coachella Valley; Lake Elsinore to the Southwest, with all the rich and fertile farm lands; the Santa Ana River flowing from San Bernardino Mountains to the ocean and that wonderful old mountain in the San Bernardino range Mount San Gorgonio a few miles distant, snow capped a great portion of the year as are the mountains of San Jacinto.

Within the proposed park will be San Jacinto Peak, 10,805 feet; Jean Peak, 10,000 feet; Marion Mountain, 9,000; Tahquitz Peak, 8,826; Lilly Rock, 7,973; Cabazon Peak, 8,000; Folly Peak, 10,500; Cornell Peak and other timber covered mountains ranging from 5,000 to 8,008 feet in height. In between these mountains are Tahquitz Valley, Round Valley, Long Valley and many other little valleys in all of which are found forests of pine and other timber. To the east of San Jacinto Peak is beautiful Hidden Lake, a mirror of water lying on the rim of the mountain nearly 9,000 feet above Salton Sea. From the edge of this lake one looks down on to the vast garden of the Coachella Val-

ley, a mile and one-half below or from a HEIGHT MORE THAN TWICE THAT OF YOSEMITE'S GLACIER POINT.

On the edge of the proposed park are found many wonderful hotels and resorts. At the base of the mountain to the east at Palm Springs are the internationally known "Desert Inn" and the "Oasis Hotel". A few months ago a new million dollar hotel, known as the "El Mirador" was completed and is now open to the public. On the San Gorgonio Pass side, at Cabazon, is found the "Desert Edge Inn". At Banning the "San Gorgonio Inn" and at Beaumont the "Beaumont Inn". At San Jacinto the "Vosburg Hotel" and in the immediate vicinity the "Soboba Hot Springs" and the "Gilman Relief Hot Springs" both of which are well known resorts. At the very edge of the proposed park area in Strawberry Valley, at an altitude of 6,000 feet, is found the beautiful "Idyllwild Inn" surrounded by snowcapped mountains, forests of pines and other mountain vegetation. Immediately above this resort the "Idyllwild Golf Club," and further to the west Keen Camp, all of which during the last few years have become summer as well as winter playgrounds to thousands of Los Angeles and other Southern California people. In Strawberry Valley, Fern Valley and in the vicinity of Keen Camp are found many hundreds of attractive mountain homes built by people from all parts of Southern California.

A state park in the San Jacinto Mountains is particularly interesting to all of Southern California on account of its accessibility. At the present time the Riverside County Board of Supervisors are constructing a mountain boulevard connecting up Idyllwild with the present highway at Hemet which when completed will cost \$750,000.00. This is a 6 per cent grade road, 30 feet wide and may be traveled the entire distance in high gear. At the present time the Banning-Idyllwild road is in excellent condition and the county is spending a large sum in improving this road this year. A plan is also being formulated for the building of a scenic drive from Idyllwild to Palm Springs by way of Palm Canyon. When completed these roads will surround the San Jacinto Mountains with good roads, with at least three boulevards leading direct to the edge of the proposed park.

## Summary

A 50,000 acre state park may easily be acquired at a very nominal expenditure.

The proposed area is the largest natural park area in Southern California which still remains as nature made it.

It lies in the very heart of Southern California and is only a short drive from our large centers of population.

It is or will be surrounded by good roads and

boulevards leading to the edge of the park with its miles of mountain valleys, its streams and lakes which will afford camping and recreational facilities for thousands of people without crowding.

Scenic attractions unexcelled and in many instances offering unique possibilities in mountain scenery as well as from the scientific standpoint.

These lands as a Southern California State Park are of inestimable value to Southern California, and the entire South should actively interest itself in seeing that this wonderful territory is preserved for all time for their own profit and enjoyment and for the benefit of posterity.

A. E. BOTTEL,  
Chairman, County Board of  
Forestry.

### IT IS TIME TO PRUNE WHAT?

(Continued from page 14)

Large growing vines like the Evergreen Grapes, the clinging *Ficus repens* and Boston Ivy all will require quite severe pruning. *Bignonia Tweediana* that blooms on its new growth in April should have all the loose and fine sprays cut back. It clings as it makes its new growth and what is not clinging should be removed. That is the treatment for all clinging vines. As the new growth develops and does not cling, cut off such sprays.

This is the time for separating and transplanting Ferns and cutting out the old and shabby foliage. A liberal supply of leaf soil for renewing the old clumps or for use in planting out the new stock is quite necessary.

K. O. SESSIONS.

### DO SOILS MAKE THE GARDEN OR DOES MAN?

I was much intrigued to hear a Holland dairy man remark last week, "My father used to say, 'There are no poor soils; there are only poor gardeners.'" My own Dutch grandmother impressed on my childish mind the saying "I can't is dead, 'I will' killed him."

The two sayings are analogous. It was the application of that principle to their difficult soil problems that made of the Hollanders the fine gardeners they are. I shall never forget what Bismarck said about the Irish question. "I would settle it in a hurry," he remarked. "I would put the Irish in Holland and the Hollanders in Ireland." And then what," he was asked. "The Hollanders would make a garden spot of Ireland."

"And the Irish?"

"Oh, they would forget the dykes."

You ought to approach the garden in one of two ways. You ought either to plant the sort of things that are likely to thrive in the kind of soil you have or make your soil into the kind that suits the needs of the kinds of flora you wish to grow.

It is of no use to plant pyrethrums and pinks in heavy adobe and roses in light sand. You do not cook bones for your own consumption or feed your dog potatoes. Whether you plant to suit your soil or suit your soil to your plants the results with good care will be something to be proud of. However in the first case the soil is your master. In the second, you are the lord of its creation. "In ourselves is victory or defeat."

—N. K. B.

Wonder if you have missed this poem out of your own San Diego newspaper, *The Union*:

#### Roads

Upon the road to Summer  
We briskly move along,  
And little mark the lilting lark,  
Or note the thrasher's song.  
We hardly heed the beauty  
Of blossom, tree and sky,  
But stride ahead with hurrying tread  
The while the days go by.

Upon the road to Autumn  
We may not take our ease,  
Nor pause to hear the songs of cheer  
From hives of murmuring bees.  
The sunflowers beckon to us  
Amid the rippling grass,  
But on we bear our load of care  
What time the swift days pass.

Upon the road to Winter  
We have no time to stay  
And view a while, long mile on mile,  
The woodland's bright array.  
Upon the next far turning  
Our anxious eyes are cast;  
We press along among the throng  
And still the days fly past.  
And then we find about us

The deep and drifting snow;  
No more we race; our burdened pace  
Is labored now, and slow.  
With happiness behind us  
Our hopes have taken wing.  
Too late we learn, beyond the turn,  
There is no road to Spring.

#### LIST OF NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS FOR MARCH

Mrs. Bernard Rowntree, Carmel-by-the-Sea.  
Mrs. G. D. Merner, San Mateo.  
Russell D. Chase, Jamestown, N. Dakota.  
Mrs. E. C. Reader, Fallbrook, Calif.  
Mrs. Florence Martin, Point Loma.  
Miss Byrd Taft, Point Loma.  
Mrs. Rose Troth, Pacific Beach.  
W. E. Lovett, Alhambra, Calif.  
Donald D. McMurray, Pasadena.  
South Pasadena Garden Club, So. Pasadena.  
Miss Clara Dewitz, San Diego.  
Mrs. Howard Guy, San Diego.



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